



## The future of the global food system

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### Abstract:

Although food prices in major world markets are at or near a historical low, there is increasing concern about food security-the ability of the world to provide healthy and environmentally sustainable diets for all its peoples. This article is an introduction to a collection of reviews whose authors were asked to explore the major drivers affecting the food system between now and 2050. A first set of papers explores the main factors affecting the demand for food (population growth, changes in consumption patterns, the effects on the food system of urbanization and the importance of understanding income distributions) with a second examining trends in future food supply (crops, livestock, fisheries and aquaculture, and 'wild food'). A third set explores exogenous factors affecting the food system (climate change, competition for water, energy and land, and how agriculture depends on and provides ecosystem services), while the final set explores cross-cutting themes (food system economics, food wastage and links with health). Two of the clearest conclusions that emerge from the collected papers are that major advances in sustainable food production and availability can be achieved with the concerted application of current technologies (given sufficient political will), and the importance of investing in research sooner rather than later to enable the food system to cope with both known and unknown challenges in the coming decades.

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### Resource Description

#### Communication: ☒

resource focus on research or methods on how to communicate or frame issues on climate change; surveys of attitudes, knowledge, beliefs about climate change

A focus of content

#### Communication Audience: ☒

audience to whom the resource is directed

Policymaker

#### Exposure : ☒

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

# Climate Change and Human Health Literature Portal

Food/Water Security

**Food/Water Security:** Agricultural Productivity, Fisheries, Livestock Productivity

**Geographic Feature:** ☒

resource focuses on specific type of geography

None or Unspecified

**Geographic Location:** ☒

resource focuses on specific location

Global or Unspecified

**Health Impact:** ☒

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

Malnutrition/Undernutrition

**Intervention:** ☒

strategy to prepare for or reduce the impact of climate change on health

A focus of content

**Mitigation/Adaptation:** ☒

mitigation or adaptation strategy is a focus of resource

Adaptation

**Population of Concern:** A focus of content

**Population of Concern:** ☒

populations at particular risk or vulnerability to climate change impacts

Low Socioeconomic Status, Workers

**Resource Type:** ☒

format or standard characteristic of resource

Review

**Resilience:** ☒

capacity of an individual, community, or institution to dynamically and effectively respond or adapt to shifting climate impact circumstances while continuing to function

A focus of content

**Timescale:** ☒

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified